RACKET SQUAD
IN ACTION
INSPECTOR
345
10¢
CAPITOL PUBLICATION

WIN YOUR "ONE AND ONLY"

EVERY ROMANCE HAS PITFALLS. AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, HEARTBREAK. SAVE YOURSELF LOTS OF TRAGEDY. DON'T BE A FAUX PAS. FOR winning strategy, read HOW TO GET ALONG WITH GIRLS or HOW TO GET ALONG WITH BOYS. Put psychology to work- no more clumsy mistakes for you with these amazing handbooks!

10-DAY TRIAL OFFER

FREE 10 days' trial if you mail coupon now. Get your copy in plain wrapper by return mail. Money back if not delighted.

READ FOR YOURSELF

How To Interest Someone in You . . . Get Dates . . . Win His or Her Love . . . Become the "One and Only" . . . "Make up" After a Quarrel . . . Express Your Love . . . Hold Your Sweetheart . . . Be a Personality . . . Improve Your Conversation, Looks, Manners . . . Overcome Inferiority . . . and many more topics.

WRITE *Thrilling* LOVE LETTERS

PARTIAL CONTENTS

How to "Break the Ice"
How to Make Everyday Events Sound Interesting
How to Make Your Sweetheart Write More Often
How to Express Your Love
How to Make (or Break) a Date
How to Acknowledge a Gift
How to "Make Up"
How to Say "Those Little Things"
How to Make Him (or Her) Miss You
How to Propose by Letter

MAIL COUPON TODAY!!!

PLAZA BOOK CO., Dept. C 364
109 Broad St., New York 4, N. Y.

Send book or books checked below. I enclose (saving postal charges). If not pleased, I may return for refund.

☐ How To Write Love Letters @ 98c
☐ How To Get Along With Girls @ 98c
☐ How To Get Along With Boys @ 98c

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE ___ STATE _____

☐ Check here if you prefer C.O.D. You pay postman 98c per book plus postal charges.

SAVE 70%

SACRIFICE SALE! SWISS WATCHES

No. 260 $6.97

DROP IT! BANG IT!

SHOCK RESISTANT WATCH

The STAFF SHOCK ABSORBER built right into this remarkable watch is one the great inventions of this century. Saves you time, worry, aggravation! NOW you don't have to take your watch off when playing baseball, football, tennis! YES . . . bang it . . . hit it . . . even DROP it. Actually defies breakage. In fact, we'll send you one on trial for a whole week! YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU BREAK IT! Has night glowing luminous No.'s and hands, sweep-second hand, unbreakable crystal, rich design and FLEXIBLE metal band. Don't lose this lifetime opportunity! Order now by No. 260. Full price—not 1 cent extra _____ 6.97

No. 252 $9.95

RUNS UNDER WATER!

Submarine Water-Protected Watch

Watch of the atomic age! Not only does this amazing watch defy breakage by virtue of its special STAFF SHOCK ABSORBER, but it has a SPECIAL RUBBER GASKET and screw back to keep out water, grime and grease. Yes, you can drop it, jolt it . . . and go SWIMMING with the SUBMARINE WATCH. It runs UNDER the water! Precision-made by Swiss artisans. Unbreakable crystal . . . sweep-second hand . . . split-second calibrations . . . luminous radium-applique numbers and hands. Special REDUCED price. Order by No. 252. Money Back GUARANTEE. Only _____ 9.95

No. 203 $7.98

12 Pseudo Rubies and DIAMONDS

"The Millionaire" ARISTOCRAT

Last word in smart styling for men! Smart imitation rubies and diamonds around the dial! Accurate, dependable, SWISS movement. WHITE GOLD color effect case and matching Flexible band. Has Sweep-Second hand. Unbreakable crystal. This watch makes a terrific impression everywhere . . . looks like a $100.00 timepiece and it's very ACCURATE too! We give you 7 full days to try it and compare it with watches selling for much more. Your money back GUARANTEED if you aren't 100% satisfied! RUSH order now and SAVE! Number 203. Your price, only _____ 7.98

GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS!

FREE repair service ANYTIME if needed by skilled watchmakers — for the LIFETIME of this firm. No cost ever for "handling", adjustment or service. U. S. makes LIFETIME FRIENDS! remember: if you are not satisfied with your purchase after home trial, return for full price refund.

U. S. DIAMOND HOUSE, 127 West 33rd St. Dept. 165C300 New York 1, N.Y.

RUSH watch(es) checked for full week's TRIAL FREE of risk. I will pay postman price shown—NO EXTRAS—on delivery. GIVEN: No. 317 Aristocrat Ring, Guarantee, Bond at no extra charge.

☐ No. 260—$6.97 Shock Resistant
☐ No. 252—$9.95 Submarine
☐ No. 203—$7.98 Millionaire

Name _____

Address _____ Town & State _____

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION published bi-monthly by Capitol Stories, Inc. Executive Offices and Office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Entered as Second Class Matter at Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 60c yearly. Vol. 1, No. 7, June, 1953. Copyright 1953 by Capitol Stories, Inc. Alfred V. Fago, Editor: Walter Gibson, Assistant Editor.

Printed in the U. S. A.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

INSPECTOR J.J O'MALLEY
IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT A NOTORIOUS CONFIDENCE MAN IS HOODWINKED SO EXPERTLY BY A COUPLE OF SMALL-TIME SWINDLERS THAT HE VIOLATES THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF THE UNDERWORLD AND SCREAMS "GYP" TO THE POLICE. YET THAT IS PRECISELY HOW WE CAME TO HEAR OF THE INGENIOUS COUNTERFEITING SCHEME KNOWN AS THE...
EASY MONEY RACKET
M-MY 25 G'S! BLOWN TO S-SHREDS! 25 GRAND... AND NOW IT'S JUST C-CONFETTI!
SOMETHING MUST'VE GONE..UH.. RADICALLY WRONG WITH MY SECRET FORMULA! GET YOUR HANDS ON SOME MORE MONEY, WALTERS, AND WE'LL RECOUP YOUR LOSSES!

ARRESTING A GANGLAND BIGGY LIKE BINGO WALTERS... AND KNOWING THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE RAP STICK.. IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A COP THINK HIS JOB REALLY IS USEFUL TO SOCIETY...

YOU GOT ME PINNED TO THE WALL THIS TIME, O'MALLEY. IF I DO A LITTLE YODELING ABOUT A RACKET EVEN YOU NEVER HEARD OF... WHAT DOES IT NET ME?
I DON'T MAKE PROMISES, BINGO. HELP US.. AND I'LL REMIND THE COURT OF YOUR COOPERATION WHEN IT'S SENTENCING YOU!

'BOUT ALL I CAN HOPE FOR, I GUESS IS LENIENCY FOR TURNING STATE'S EVIDENCE. WELL, I GOT A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THOSE WISE GUYS, ANYWAY, 'CAUSE THEY GAVE ME A SKIN-NING! SO HERE GOES...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AS I LISTENED TO BINGO WALTERS' STORY OF THE "EASY MONEY RACKET," HIS ANGRY WORDS BROUGHT THE CHARACTERS VIVIDLY TO LIFE. IT HAD ALL STARTED ONE MONTH AGO...

HE MUSTA STUMBLED ON A JUICY RACKET! THINGS ARE SLOW ENOUGH FOR ME AT THE MOMENT TO LOOK AROUND... I'LL SOUND OUT THE SMALL-TIME CRUMB!
TAXI $15

OOOF... MANNY CRAIG! HOW'S THINGS, BOY? HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A DOG'S AGE. CARE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER... AND WE CAN MAKE WITH THE CONVERSATION?
W-WHY ..SURE, BIN.. ...ER.. MR. WALTERS!

I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU, BINGO... I'M IN ON A SURE-FIRE RACKET THAT'S GONNA MAKE ME A MILLIONAIRE! BUMPING INTO YOU MIGHT BE FATE.. 'CAUSE WE NEED A BIG MONEY MAN LIKE YOU TO GIVE US A STARTING BOOST! FROM THEN ON IT'S EASY MONEY FOR US ALL!

YOU'VE LEVELED WITH ME, MANNY ... NOW I'LL PUT MY CARDS ON THE TABLE. WHO'S THE BRAINS OF YOUR LITTLE OPERATION? TAKE ME TO HIM!
OKAY! GET YOUR COAT AND I'LL TELL YOU IN THE TAXI, ON THE WAY OVER!

MANNY'S BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT THIS SWITCH YOU'VE GOT ON THE COUNTERFEIT RACKET, PROFESSOR ZEITZ. WITH YOUR CHEMICAL BACKGROUND, I'D LIKE TO BUY IN...
YOU'RE AS SMART AS THE BRIGHT BOYS SAY, MR. WALTERS. ALLOW ME TO GIVE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

I PLACE THIS TEN DOLLAR BILL.. WHICH YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE EXAMINED AND FOUND SATISFACTORY, BINGO... ON TOP OF A SPECIALLY TREATED SHEET OF BLANK PAPER.
NOW I APPLY A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF HEAT TO THE PACKET, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE SECRET FLUID WITH WHICH THE BLANK SHEET OF PAPER WAS TREATED TO OPERATE AT ITS MAXIMUM...
THEN I UNWRAP OUR LITTLE PACKET. INSTEAD OF A BILL AND A BLANK PAPER... WE NOW HAVE TWO IDENTICAL TEN SPOTS! LOOK THEM OVER, SIR... SEE IF YOU CAN TELL WHICH IS FAKE...
THEY SURE LOOK THE SAME! BUT THE LAW HAS WAYS OF PROVING WHEN MONEY'S QUEER...
NOT THIS TIME, BINGO! THE BILL I MADE IS A TRANSFER OF THE IMAGE OF THE REAL TEN-SPOT... IT'S NOT MERELY A COPY. OUR BILL USES THE VERY INK THE GOVERNMENT USES ITSELF!
I'D STAKE MY PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST THAT NO MAN CAN PROVE THAT EITHER OF THOSE BILLS IS COUNTERFEIT, BINGO. TAKE THEM TO YOUR BANK... HAVE THEM EXAMINE THE BILLS ONE AT A TIME... PROVE TO YOURSELF THAT THEY'RE PERFECTLY LEGAL...
IF YOU'RE SATISFIED, BINGO.. BRING A BATCH OF THE LARGEST BILLS YOU CAN GET FROM THE BANK TOMORROW. I HAVE ONLY ENOUGH FLUID FOR ONE MORE TRANSFER AT THIS TIME... IT'LL TAKE ME WEEKS TO BREW ANOTHER BATCH OF LIQUID!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

I GAVE EACH OF THOSE TEN-SPOTS TO A DIFFERENT BANK TELLER, PROFESSOR... THEY EACH SAID THE BILL WAS GENUINE! SO I'D LIKE TO BUY IN, ON A 50-50 BASIS... WITH 25 G'S!
SPLENDID! IN A FEW MINUTES, WE'LL HAVE A PROFIT OF $25,000!
NOW TO HEAT THE BUNDLE AND SEAL THE TRANSFER OF INKS TO THE BLANK SHEETS OF PAPER...
H-HEY! SOUNDED LIKE A POLICE SIREN!
I..I MUST BE GETTING JITTERY. I COULDA SWORN I HEARD A PATROL CAR!
THEY CAN'T PROVE NOTHING ON US, ANYWAY!
WATCH OUT, BOYS ..S-SOMETHING SEEMS TO HAVE GONE WRONG!
BA-ROOM
M-MY 25 G'S SHREDDED INTO CONFETTI...
CHEEZ ...WHAT A MESS!
WE'LL MAKE THIS TERRIBLE LOSS UP TO YOU, BINGO...YOU KEEP THE PROCEEDS OF THE NEXT TRANSFER WHEN I MAKE NEW LIQUID!
MANNY WILL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS WE'RE READY! DON'T LET THIS ACCIDENT GET YOU DOWN... WE'LL ALL BE LIVING OFF EASY MONEY YET!
I..I'LL WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU, PROFESSOR! I THINK I'LL RUN ALONG NOW ... I DON'T F-FEEL SO HOT!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT SAME NIGHT IT DAWNED ON ME THAT SOMETHING MUSTA BEEN FISHY. BUT BEFORE I COULD DO ANYTHING TO PROVE IT, INSPECTOR, A COUPLA YOUR BOYS PICKED ME UP FOR THAT NATIONAL COPPER SWINDLE!
HAVE YOU STILL GOT THOSE TWO TEN-SPOTS THEY WORKED ON YOU ORIGINALLY?
HERE THEY ARE... I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW THEY PULLED THAT TRANSFER WITH ME WATCHING LIKE A HAWK...
I'VE GOT A HUNCH ON HOW IT WORKED!
HMMM... JUST WHAT I EXPECTED. THESE BILLS ARE GOOD... EXCEPT THAT ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN DOCTORED SLIGHTLY. WHAT YOUR PALS DID WAS TO DRAW SEVERAL BILLS FROM THE BANK, SPECIFYING THAT THEY BE IN NUMERICAL ORDER...

...THEN THEY ALTERED THE LAST DIGIT SO THAT THE SERIAL NUMBERS WERE IDENTICAL. SINCE NEITHER BANK CLERK SAW BOTH BILLS TOGETHER... THEY TOLD YOU THE BILLS WHERE OKAY, WHICH THEY ARE!
T-THERE WASN'T ANY COUNTERFEITING AT ALL!

THE ONLY EASY MONEY WAS WHAT THEY MADE FROM YOU! TAKE HIM TO HIS CELL, SERGEANT... THE RACKET SQUAD TAKES OVER FROM HERE!
THEM DIRTY... GET 'EM FOR ME INSPECTOR!

MY ASSISTANT, STEVE PRYOR, MADE CONTACT WITH THE SWINDLERS A FEW DAYS LATER. THE INITIAL BUILD-UP WAS THE SAME AS IN THE CASE OF BINGO WALTERS. THEN...

HERE ARE THE FIVE $5000 BILLS, STEVE... ALL MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION LATER! WE'LL BE IN THE ROOM NEXT TO THE ONE USED BY THE PROFESSOR AND CRAIG! GO ALONG WITH THEM WHOLE-HOG!

AN HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN STEVE AND THE SWINDLERS, WE MOVED INTO THE ADJOINING ROOM... WHICH I HAD ARRANGED FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE...

THE CHANDELIER IN THEIR ROOM CONTAINS A MICROPHONE, SO WE'LL PICK UP AND RECORD THEIR CONVERSATION...
BUT THEY CAN SEE US THROUGH THIS GLASS, INSPECTOR!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE GLASS, SERGEANT, IS ONE OF THOSE SPECIALLY TREATED MIRRORS I HAD INSTALLED INSTEAD OF THE ORDINARY ONE. WE CAN SEE THEM CLEARLY FROM THIS SIDE.. ALL THEY CAN SEE IS THEIR OWN REFLECTION. THERE THEY ARE... LET'S WATCH THIS CAREFULLY!
HERE ARE THE FIVE BILLS, PROFESSOR! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT EASY MONEY!
IT WON'T BE LONG, MR. FOLSOM... AND IT'S FOOL-PROOF!
NOW I PLACE THE BILLS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SHEETS WHICH HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY SENSITIZED...
NEXT, I SATURATE THE BUNDLE WITH MORE OF MY SECRET FLUID.. TO FIX THE INK PERMANENTLY ON OUR COUNTERFEIT BILLS. IT ALSO SPEEDS DRYING, AFTER THE TRANSFER HAS BEEN EFFECTED...
B-BETTER HOLD IT, PROF! T-THE PLACE..SEEMS TO BE SURROUNDED ..BY C-COPS!
WHAT? C-CAN'T BE...
I DON'T SEE ANYONE!
G-GUESS I'M JUST GETTING JUMPY! LET'S GO ON WITH THE TRANSFER, PROF!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

IF YOU'RE SURE THE COAST IS CLEAR, GENTS, I'LL CONTINUE WITH THE LAST STEP...
THROUGH THE SPECIAL GLASS I SAW THE NEXT STEP. WHICH WAS INVISIBLE TO THE VICTIM STANDING IN THE PROFESSOR'S ROOM, BECAUSE OF THE SKILLFUL WAY IN WHICH THE RACKET WAS SHIELDED FROM VIEW...
S-SOMETHING'S WRONG ... WATCH OUT! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!
BROOM M M
THE SECRET FLUID.. SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
OKAY, BOYS.. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! LET'S DEAL OURSELVES A HAND IN THIS GAME!
ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN ...THIS IS THE WHISTLE ENDING THE CONTEST!
W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? YOU HAVE NO RIGHT BARGING IN ON LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS...
YOU DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF EVIDENCE...
THE SHREDS ARE ALL OVER THE FLOOR.. INCLUDING THE FIRECRACKER WHICH EXPLODED THAT BATCH OF CHOPPED UP BILLS! THE REST OF THE EVIDENCE IS IN YOUR POCKET ...NEATLY MARKED!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

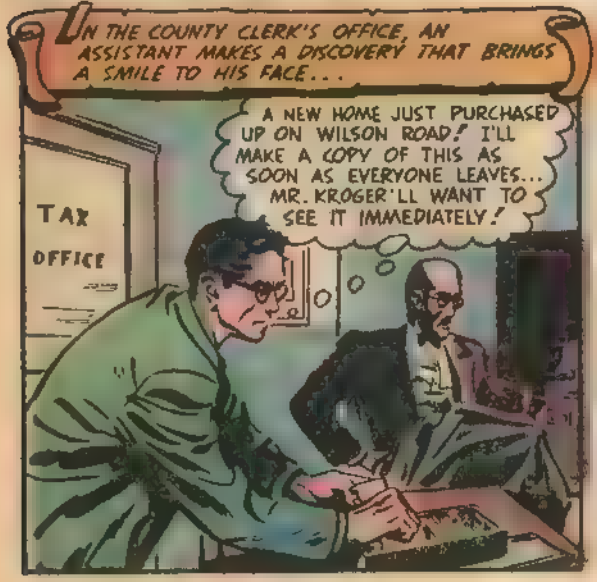
Y-YOU JERK! YOU GOT SO ITCHY FOR EASY DOUGH THAT YOU IGNORED MY INSTRUCTIONS AND BROUGHT IN THE FIRST GUY WHO WAS WILLING TO PUT UP THE MONEY! AND HE TURNS OUT TO BE A COP!
ONE MORE QUESTION, ZEITZ. THIS SECRET FLUID OF YOURS..WHAT IS IT?
A BRIGHT GUY LIKE YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY LIGHTER FLUID, INSPECTOR!
WHICH REMINDS ME ...I HAVEN'T FILLED MY LIGHTER IN SOME TIME! TAKE THE PRISONERS OUT, SERGEANT!
THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS ALL WRAPPED UP NEATLY, READY FOR THE COURT.
REMARKABLY CLEVER, WHEN YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT THEIR LITTLE SCHEME. EVEN IF A VICTIM DISCOVERED HOW THEY WORKED THE RACKET..HE'D NEVER COME TO THE RACKET SQUAD FOR FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED HIMSELF FOR TAKING PART IN ATTEMPTED COUNTERFEITING!
TWO BITS OF SLEIGHT-OF-HAND.. AND EVEN A SHREWD CUSTOMER LIKE BINGO WALTERS FALLS FOR THE STUNT! HAND FASTER THAN THE EYE! IMAGINE BINGO NOT SEEING ZEITZ SLIP THAT SECOND TEN-SPOT INTO THE BUNDLE DURING THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION!
HEY! WATCH THAT FLAME! ONE EXPLOSION A DAY IS ENOUGH!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT WE NEED... A FEW MORE EXPLOSIONS LIKE THIS TO ALERT THE PUBLIC TO THE FACT THAT BEHIND EASY MONEY THERE'S ALWAYS A SWINDLE! AND SWINDLERS ALWAYS WIND UP BEHIND BARS!
THE END

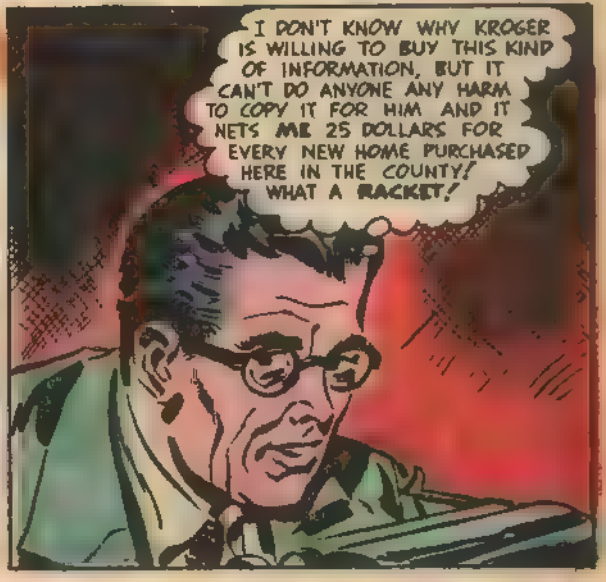
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THIS IS THE STORY OF AN INGENIOUS ACTOR NAMED KENNETH KROGER. FOR MANY MONTHS, IN AN UPSTATE COUNTY, HE PLAYED TO AN AUDIENCE OF UNSUSPECTING NEW HOMEOWNERS... AND IN HIS ROLE AS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR, WAS ALWAYS...

CALM COOL AND COLLECTED

BEAUTIFUL PLACE YOU'VE BOUGHT, SIR. TAXES, THOUGH, ARE GONNA BE MIGHTY HIGH... UNLESS WE CAN MAKE A PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT!
I-I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, MR. KROGER. AND I HAVE THE MONEY RIGHT HERE, AS YOU SUGGESTED! I-IN CASH!


IN THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, AN ASSISTANT MAKES A DISCOVERY THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO HIS FACE...
A NEW HOME JUST PURCHASED UP ON WILSON ROAD! I'LL MAKE A COPY OF THIS AS SOON AS EVERYONE LEAVES... MR. KROGER'LL WANT TO SEE IT IMMEDIATELY!
TAX OFFICE

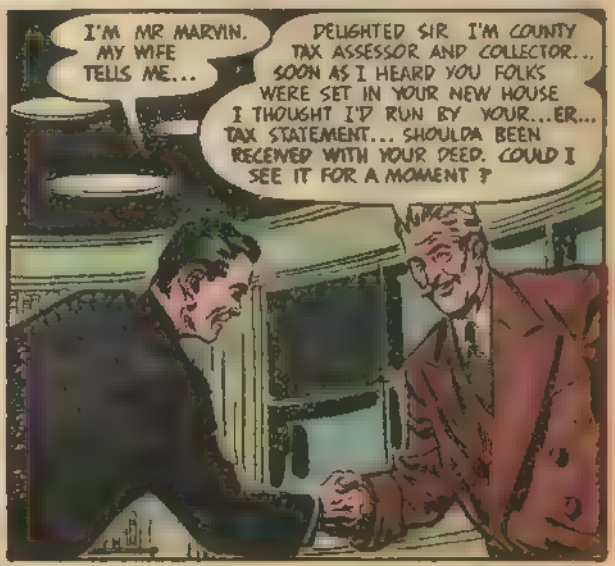

I DON'T KNOW WHY KROGER IS WILLING TO BUY THIS KIND OF INFORMATION, BUT IT CAN'T DO ANYONE ANY HARM TO COPY IT FOR HIM AND IT NETS ME 25 DOLLARS FOR EVERY NEW HOME PURCHASED HERE IN THE COUNTY! WHAT A RACKET!

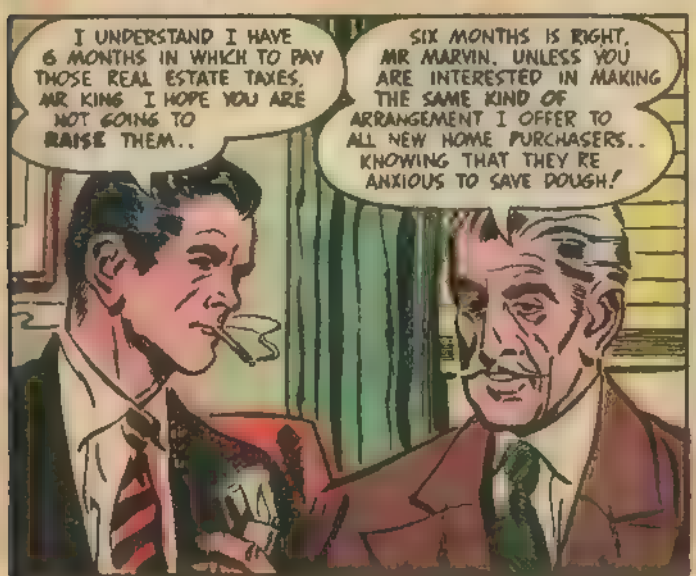
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

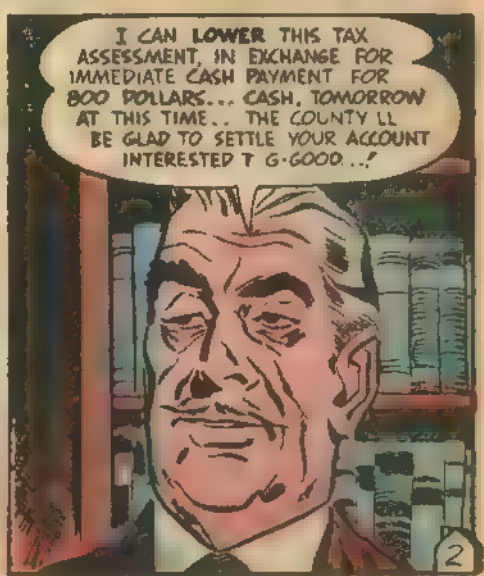
THE TRUE EXTENT OF THE RACKET WAS KNOWN ONLY TO KENNETH KROGER AND HIS ACCOMPLICE, MIKE STEBBINS THE NEXT DAY, THEY DROVE OVER TO WILSON ROAD...
THERE'S THE PLACE DESCRIBED IN THE DEED...
LEAVE 'EM THEIR EYE-TEETH, KEN! GOOD LUCK!

PAID 5,000 IN CASH... BANKS AT THE FIRST NATIONAL... WORKS OVER IN CARVER CITY AS PLANT FOREMAN. OUGHTTA BE GOOD FOR A NICE HAUL, SINCE HE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYONE HERE IN TOWN!

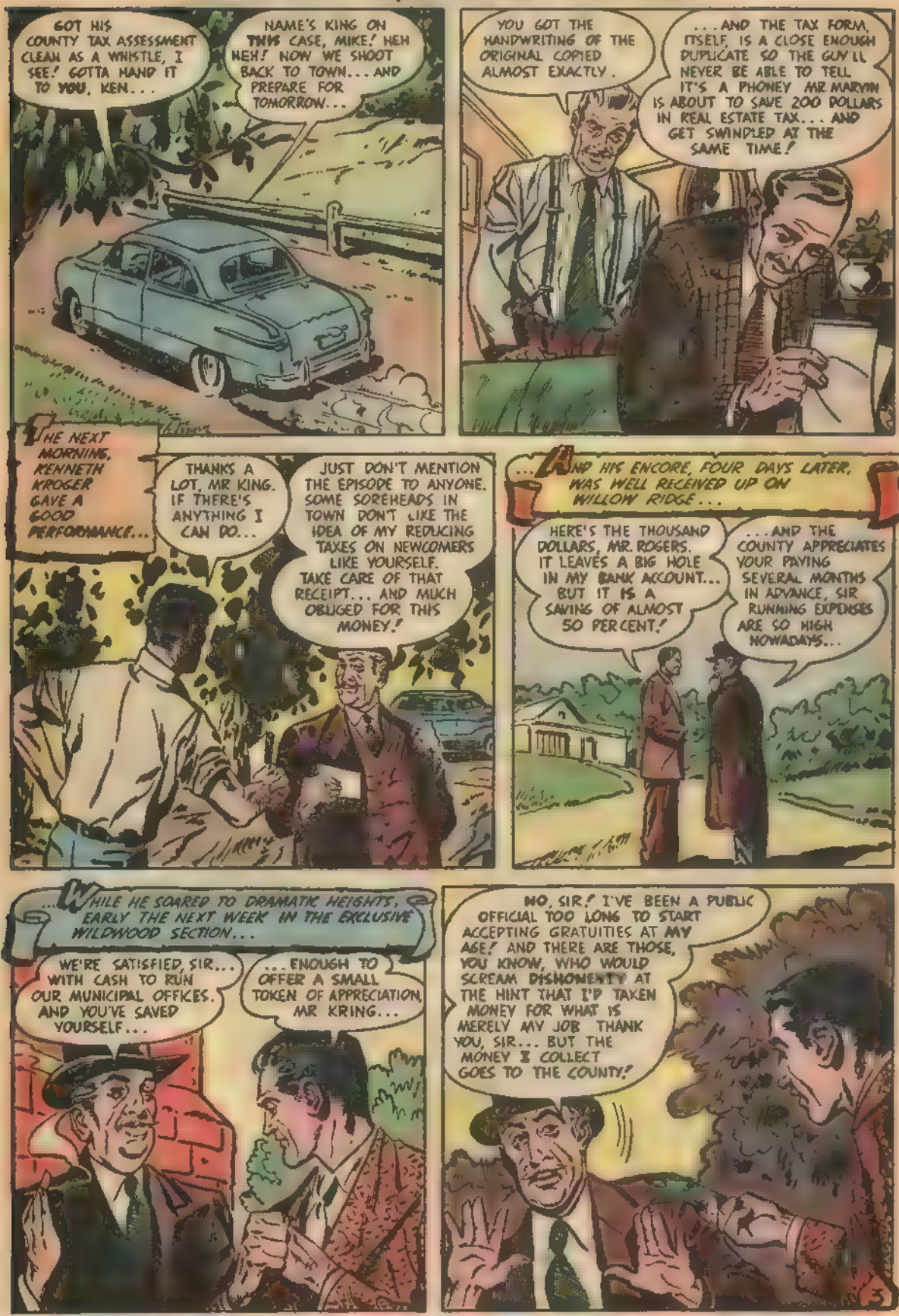
H-HELLO WHAT CAN I...?
MRS. MARVIN? GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE NAME'S KING... ROGER KING. THOUGHT I'D WISH YOU WELCOME TO ELM CITY. MAN OF THE HOUSE ABOUT?


I'M MR MARVIN. MY WIFE TELLS ME...
DELIGHTED SIR I'M COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR... SOON AS I HEARD YOU FOLKS WERE SET IN YOUR NEW HOUSE I THOUGHT I'D RUN BY YOUR...ER... TAX STATEMENT... SHOULDA BEEN RECEIVED WITH YOUR DEED. COULD I SEE IT FOR A MOMENT?

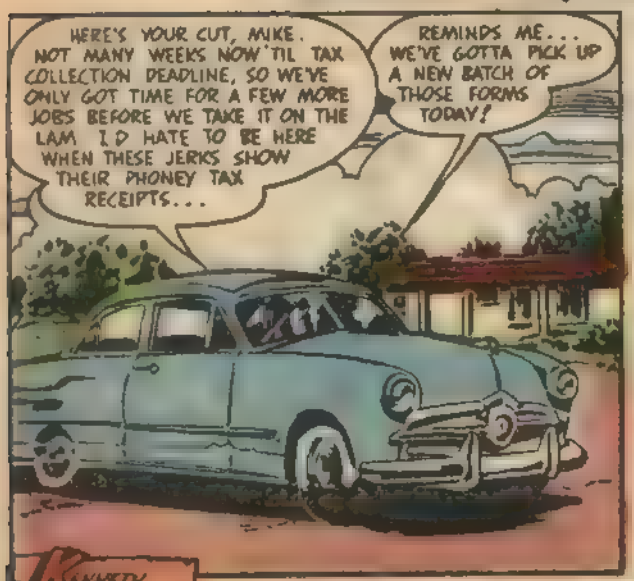

I UNDERSTAND I HAVE 6 MONTHS IN WHICH TO PAY THOSE REAL ESTATE TAXES, MR KING I HOPE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO RAISE THEM..
SIX MONTHS IS RIGHT, MR MARVIN. UNLESS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING THE SAME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT I OFFER TO ALL NEW HOME PURCHASERS.. KNOWING THAT THEY RE ANXIOUS TO SAVE DOUGH!


I CAN LOWER THIS TAX ASSESSMENT, IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMEDIATE CASH PAYMENT FOR 800 DOLLARS... CASH, TOMORROW AT THIS TIME.. THE COUNTY LL BE GLAD TO SETTLE YOUR ACCOUNT INTERESTED T G-GOOD..!
2

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


GOT HIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSMENT CLEAN AS A WHISTLE, I SEE! GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, KEN...
NAME'S KING ON THIS CASE, MIKE! HEH HEH! NOW WE SHOOT BACK TO TOWN... AND PREPARE FOR TOMORROW...
YOU GOT THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORIGINAL COPIED ALMOST EXACTLY.
...AND THE TAX FORM, ITSELF, IS A CLOSE ENOUGH DUPLICATE SO THE GUY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S A PHONEY MR. MARVIN IS ABOUT TO SAVE 200 DOLLARS IN REAL ESTATE TAX... AND GET SWINDLED AT THE SAME TIME!
THE NEXT MORNING, KENNETH KROGER GAVE A GOOD PERFORMANCE...
THANKS A LOT, MR KING. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
JUST DON'T MENTION THE EPISODE TO ANYONE. SOME SOREHEADS IN TOWN DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF MY REDUCING TAXES ON NEWCOMERS LIKE YOURSELF. TAKE CARE OF THAT RECEIPT... AND MUCH OBLIGED FOR THIS MONEY!
...AND HIS ENCORE, FOUR DAYS LATER, WAS WELL RECEIVED UP ON WILLOW RIDGE...
HERE'S THE THOUSAND DOLLARS, MR. ROGERS. IT LEAVES A BIG HOLE IN MY BANK ACCOUNT... BUT IT IS A SAVING OF ALMOST 50 PER CENT!
...AND THE COUNTY APPRECIATES YOUR PAYING SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE, SIR RUNNING EXPENSES ARE SO HIGH NOWADAYS...
...WHILE HE SOARED TO DRAMATIC HEIGHTS, EARLY THE NEXT WEEK IN THE EXCLUSIVE WILDWOOD SECTION...
WE'RE SATISFIED, SIR... WITH CASH TO RUN OUR MUNICIPAL OFFICES. AND YOU'VE SAVED YOURSELF...
...ENOUGH TO OFFER A SMALL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION, MR KRING...
NO, SIR! I'VE BEEN A PUBLIC OFFICIAL TOO LONG TO START ACCEPTING GRATUITIES AT MY AGE! AND THERE ARE THOSE, YOU KNOW, WHO WOULD SCREAM DISHONESTY AT THE HINT THAT I'D TAKEN MONEY FOR WHAT IS MERELY MY JOB THANK YOU, SIR... BUT THE MONEY I COLLECT GOES TO THE COUNTY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


HERE'S YOUR CUT, MIKE. NOT MANY WEEKS NOW 'TIL TAX COLLECTION DEADLINE, SO WE'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR A FEW MORE JOBS BEFORE WE TAKE IT ON THE LAM. I'D HATE TO BE HERE WHEN THESE JERKS SHOW THEIR PHONEY TAX RECEIPTS...
REMINDS ME... WE'VE GOTTA PICK UP A NEW BATCH OF THOSE FORMS TODAY!

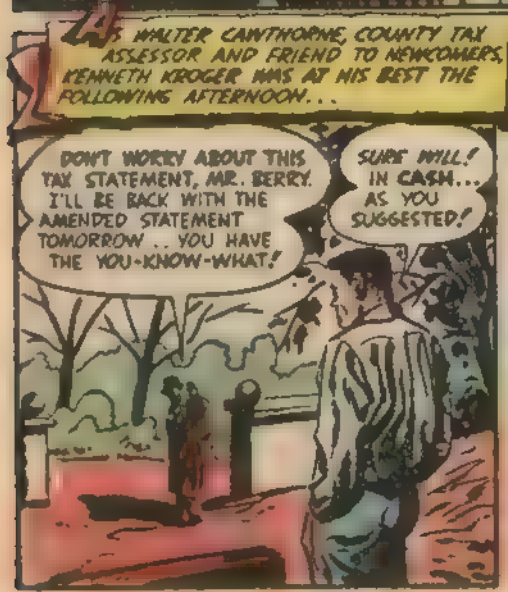
ALL READY FOR US... AND AS GOOD AS EVER!
FUNNY THEY NEVER [redacted] ON TO WHY WE HAVE THIS STUFF PRINTED HERE! OH WELL... NOW TO SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE LAST FEW SUCKERS!
EAGLE PRINT SHOP

KENNETH KROGER HADN'T LONG TO WAIT. THAT SAME EVENING...
THIS DEED CAME THROUGH TODAY, MR. KROGER. FELLOW WHO'S WORKED IN TOWN FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS DECIDED TO BUY A HOUSE HERE. INTERESTING STORY..
YEAH! GIMME THAT DEED! YOU GOT YOUR 25... SO LONG!

LOOK LIKE BAIT WORTH GOING AFTER, KEN?
GUY'S A UNION TYPESETTER.. BOUGHT A NEW PLACE ON KNIGHT STREET. NOT A BAD ADDRESS, OUGHTTA BE GOOD FOR HALF A GRAND. WE'LL DRIVE [redacted] PUT THE HAND IN HIS WALLET!

AS WALTER CAWTHORNE, COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR AND FRIEND TO NEWCOMERS, KENNETH KROGER WAS AT HIS BEST THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...

...WHILE HIS FOLLOW-UP PERFORMANCE, THE NEXT DAY, WAS UP TO HIS USUAL HIGH STANDARDS..


DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS TAX STATEMENT, MR. BERRY. I'LL BE BACK WITH THE AMENDED STATEMENT TOMORROW .. YOU HAVE THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT!
SURE WILL! IN CASH... AS YOU SUGGESTED!

960...980...1,000 DOLLARS! EVERYTHING IN ORDER, MR BERRY! NOW YOU HOLD ONTO THAT TAX RECEIPT I'VE FILLED OUT FOR YOU! IT TAKES CARE OF YOUR REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR ANOTHER YEAR...
Y-YES... ER... CARE TO HAVE A DRINK, MR CAWTHORNE? PLEASE DO...
TAX RECEIPT

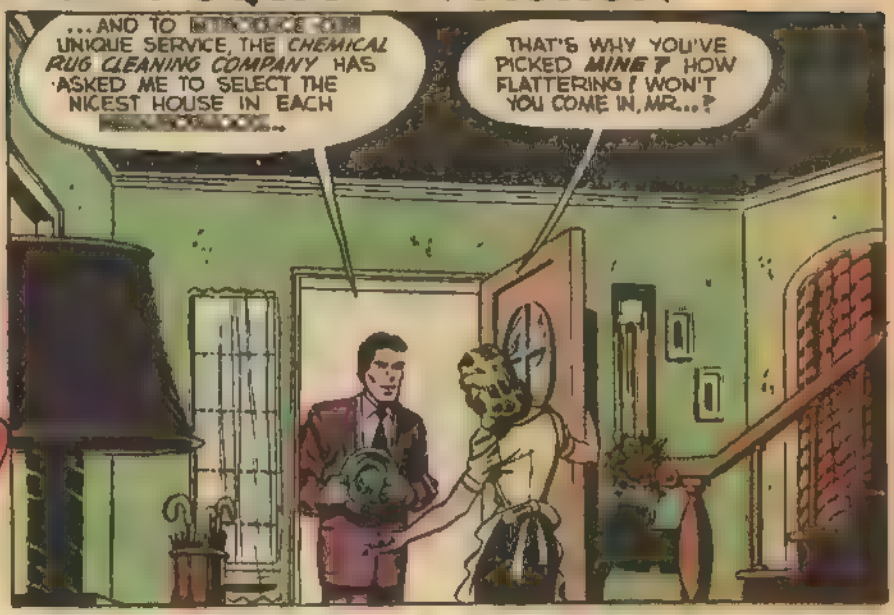
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

DON'T CARE IF I DO, MR BERRY! I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE IN THE PRINTING TRADE...
T-THAT'S RIGHT, SIR. PLEASE HELP YOURSELF... I HAVE A PHONE CALL TO MAKE FOR THE WIFE. BE RIGHT WITH YOU!
KENNETH KROGER'S LATEST VICTIM RETURNED SHORTLY THEN, AS THEY TALKED, THE MINUTES PASSED SWIFTLY..
I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT HERE IN ELM CITY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, BE SURE TO GIVE ME A RING...
S-SOMEONE'S AT OUR DOOR NOW! EXCUSE ME... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
THERE HE IS, OFFICERS.. THE MONEY IS IN HIS WALLET!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, MISTER! WE MEAN BUSINESS!
W-WHAT THE...?
THIS TAX FORM TIPPED ME OFF! THE PLACE I WORK FOR..THE EAGLE PRINT SHOP... HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET THE COUNTY'S OFFICIAL PRINTING FOR YEARS, WITHOUT SUCCESS! CLOSEST WE CAME TO IT WAS TAX RECEIPTS SOME PRIVATE PARTY ORDERED...
I NOTICED A SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE TAX RECEIPT I SET THE TYPE FOR IN THE SHOP... AND THE ONE I GOT IN THE MAIL FROM THE COUNTY CLERK WHEN I BOUGHT THIS HOUSE. BUT I FORGOT ABOUT IT... UNTIL THIS MUG TOOK THE GOOD RECEIPT YESTERDAY, AND GAVE ME THIS ONE! I KNEW IMMEDIATELY IT WASN'T OFFICIAL... BECAUSE IT'S GOT THE UNION NUMBER OF MY SHOP! SEE?
OKAY, CAWTHORNE... IF THAT'S YOUR NAME... GET MOVING! I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE GONNA DISCOVER YOU'VE USED A LOT OF MONICKERS THE PAST FEW MONTHS!
WE'LL KNOW JUST HOW MANY WHEN THESE PHONEY TAX RECEIPTS START SHOWING UP! THIS IS THE LAST COLLECTION YOU'LL BE MAKING FOR SOME TIME!
TIME PEOPLE WOKE UP TO SWINDLERS LIKE YOU TWO! YOU'D THINK FOLKS'D LEARN NOT TO FALL FOR OFFERS OF A CUT-RATE DEAL WITH A PUBLIC OFFICIAL! THE ONLY THING THEY SUCCEED IN CUTTING... IS THEIR OWN BANKROLL!!!
THE END

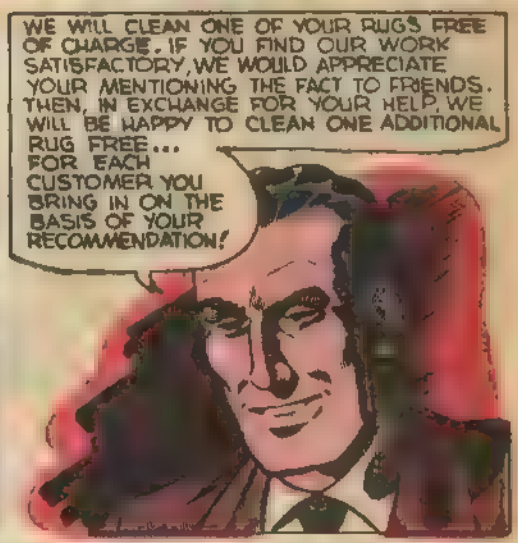
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AN HONEST FACE..AND A SMOOTH BIT OF FAST-TALKING ABOUT A "FREE" OFFER ...MAY BE ONLY THE BAIT FOR...

The RUG CLEAN-UP


...AND TO INTRODUCE OUR UNIQUE SERVICE, THE CHEMICAL RUG CLEANING COMPANY HAS ASKED ME TO SELECT THE NICEST HOUSE IN EACH [redacted]...
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE PICKED MINE? HOW FLATTERING! WON'T YOU COME IN, MR...?

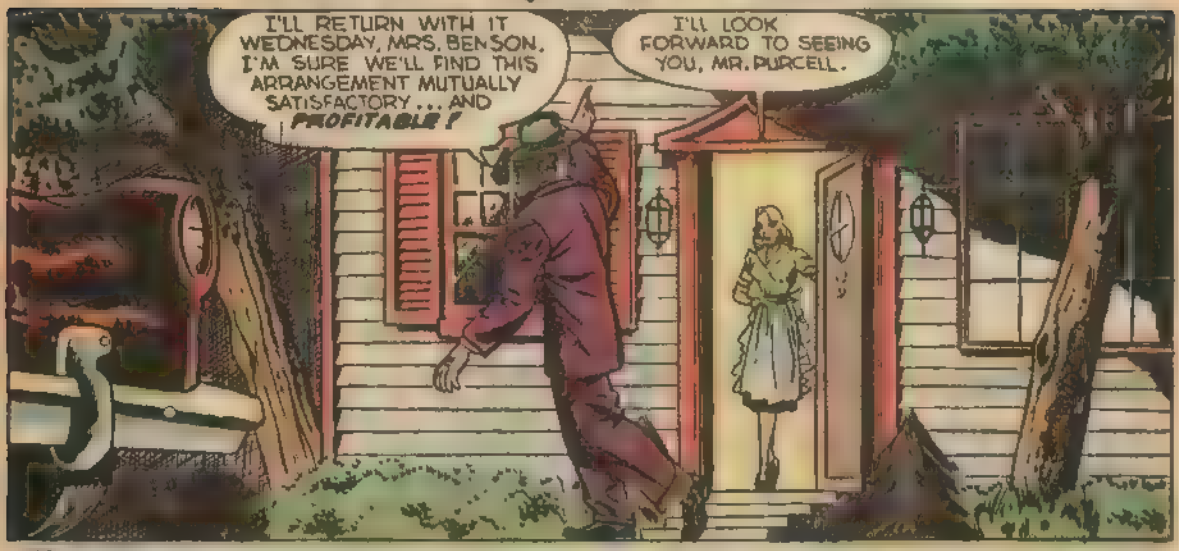
PURCELL IS MY NAME, MA'M... HERE'S MY CARD. TO PROVE TO YOU THAT OUR RUG CLEANING SERVICE IS FAST, INEXPENSIVE AND RELIABLE, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE WHAT WE CONSIDER AN UNUSUAL FREE OFFER!

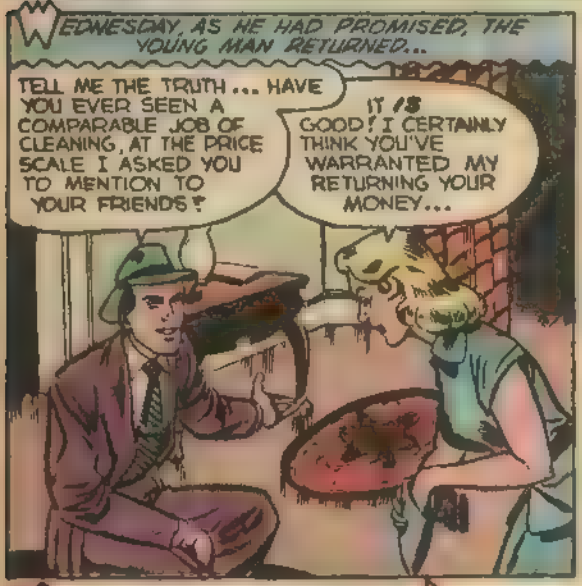

WE WILL CLEAN ONE OF YOUR RUGS FREE OF CHARGE. IF YOU FIND OUR WORK SATISFACTORY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR MENTIONING THE FACT TO FRIENDS. THEN, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR HELP, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO CLEAN ONE ADDITIONAL RUG FREE... FOR EACH CUSTOMER YOU BRING IN ON THE BASIS OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION!

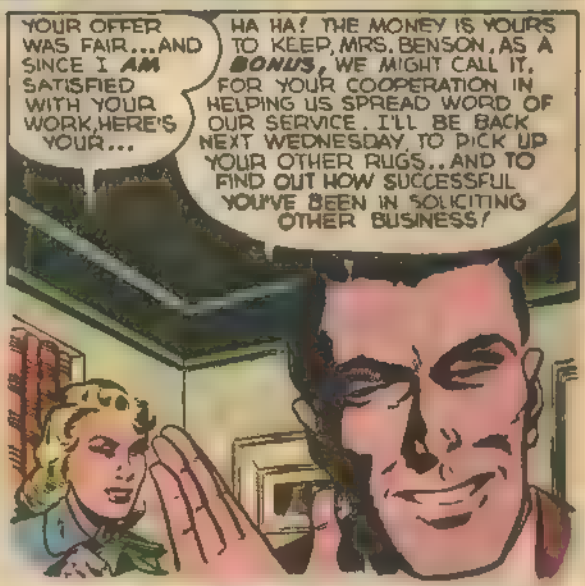
AS A SAMPLE OF OUR WORK, LET ME TAKE AN INEXPENSIVE ONE...LIKE THAT SCATTER RUG. HOW MUCH WOULD YOU ESTIMATE THE RUG IS WORTH?
I..I DON'T REALLY KNOW ...PROBABLY ABOUT TEN DOLLARS.

LET ME GIVE YOU FIFTEEN DOLLARS FOR IT, AS AN INDICATION OF THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN OUR WORK. UNLESS YOU ARE COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH OUR CHEMICAL WASHING JOB, YOU KEEP THE MONEY AS WELL AS THE RUG!
T-THAT CERTAINLY SEEMS FAIR ENOUGH...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

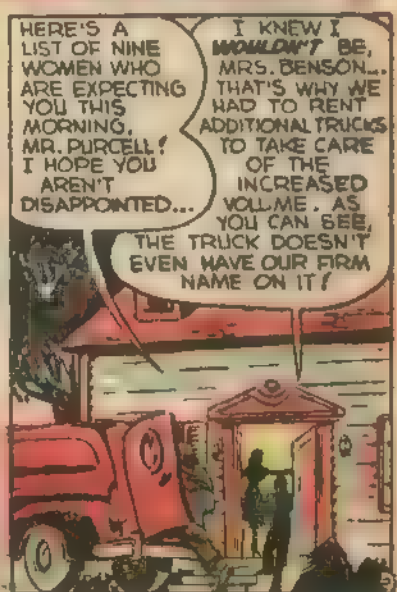

I'LL RETURN WITH IT WEDNESDAY, MRS. BENSON. I'M SURE WE'LL FIND THIS ARRANGEMENT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY... AND PROFITABLE!
I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, MR. PURCELL.


WEDNESDAY, AS HE HAD PROMISED, THE YOUNG MAN RETURNED...
TELL ME THE TRUTH... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A COMPARABLE JOB OF CLEANING, AT THE PRICE SCALE I ASKED YOU TO MENTION TO YOUR FRIENDS?
IT IS GOOD! I CERTAINLY THINK YOU'VE WARRANTED MY RETURNING YOUR MONEY...


YOUR OFFER WAS FAIR... AND SINCE I AM SATISFIED WITH YOUR WORK, HERE'S YOUR...
HA HA! THE MONEY IS YOURS TO KEEP, MRS. BENSON, AS A BONUS, WE MIGHT CALL IT, FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN HELPING US SPREAD WORD OF OUR SERVICE. I'LL BE BACK NEXT WEDNESDAY, TO PICK UP YOUR OTHER RUGS.. AND TO FIND OUT HOW SUCCESSFUL YOU'VE BEEN IN SOLICITING OTHER BUSINESS!

MR. PURCELL LEFT, AND HIS UNWARY "CUSTOMER" WENT TO WORK...
..AND HE'LL PICK UP YOUR RUGS ON WEDNESDAY, SERENA. HIS FIRM MAKES PICK-UPS ONLY ONE DAY A MONTH IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD... THAT'S WHY THEY'RE ABLE TO DO THE WORK SO CHEAPLY! QUANTITY MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE! YOU CALL GLENDA AND ALICE... I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH MARGIE AND THAT MRS. DAVIS ON THE CORNER...

AS GOOD AS HIS WORD, MR. PURCELL RETURNED ON THE APPOINTED DAY...
IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO VOLUNTEER TO PICK UP MY RUGS EVEN BEFORE YOU KNOW HOW MANY CUSTOMERS I'VE GOTTEN FOR YOU! NOW I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU...


HERE'S A LIST OF NINE WOMEN WHO ARE EXPECTING YOU THIS MORNING, MR. PURCELL! I HOPE YOU AREN'T DISAPPOINTED...
I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE, MRS. BENSON... THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO RENT ADDITIONAL TRUCKS TO TAKE CARE OF THE INCREASED VOLUME. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TRUCK DOESN'T EVEN HAVE OUR FIRM NAME ON IT!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

NINE HOUSES, PLUS HER OWN! NOT A BAD HAUL FOR A SINGLE DAY, EH? HERE'S THE FIRST ONE..THE SHINGLE HOUSE ON THE LEFT...
I HOPE WE CAN GET A COUPLE LIKE THAT FANCY ORIENTAL THE BENSON DAME GAVE US!
MR. PURCELL? I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU ...COME RIGHT IN! THE RUGS ARE ALL ROLLED AND READY TO CARRY OUT.
MIKE... FRED! WILL YOU SEE TO MRS. GORDON'S RUGS? AND HANDLE THEM WITH CARE, PLEASE!
IT'S WONDERFULLY CONVENIENT HAVING YOU PICK THE RUGS UP AND DELIVER THEM, AT NO EXTRA COST...
I'VE HEARD OF THE CHEMICAL RUG CLEANING COMPANY, OF COURSE SO A RECEIPT WON'T REALLY BE NECESSARY, MR. PURCELL. OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST...
MRS. BENSON WAS SO DELIGHTED WITH THE TRIAL WORK YOU DID FOR HER...
A WEEK WENT BY. THE SCHEDULED DAY OF DELIVERY PASSED...
T-THEY HAVE NO SALESMAN ANSWERING HIS DESCRIPTION... NO ONE NAMED PURCELL EVER WORKED FOR THE CHEMICAL RUG CLEANING COMPANY!
THE RECEIPTS ...THE STORY ABOUT WHY THE TRUCK HAD NO NAME ON IT... A SWINDLE!
YOU GOT US INTO THIS TROUBLE, ANNA BENSON! MY PRICELESS SAROUK RUG... GONE!
...THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU'D ONLY CHECKED HIS CREDENTIALS...
D-DON'T SCREAM AT ME! YOU ALL AGREED HE LOOKED HONEST... AND THE OFFER HE MADE WAS SO INEXPENSIVE...
WHICH GOES TO PROVE, IN THIS CASE, THAT AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION MIGHT HAVE SAVED SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF EXPENSIVE RUGS!
THE END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

SOME RACKETS ENSNARE INTEREST... AND MONEY... BECAUSE THE SWINDLE IS..
SMOOTH as SILK
HERE'S A SENSATIONAL BARGAIN, DEAR! IMAGINE... TEN YARDS OF THE FINEST SILK FOR ONLY FOUR DOLLARS! IT'S A CLOSEOUT BY SOME MAIL ORDER FIRM... LISTEN...
COLORS ARE BLACK, RED, GREEN, WHITE AND ORANGE. ORDER NOW... FIRST COME... FIRST SERVED. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO..."
THE ORDER WAS HURRIEDLY MAILED, AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
THE PACKAGE... IT MUST BE THE TEN YARDS OF SILK I ORDERED! I-I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE OUR WONDERFUL BARGAIN...
I WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SELL OUT BEFORE I GET MY ORDER FILLED! TEN YARDS OF RED SILK WILL BE JUST ENOUGH FOR THOSE DRAPES I'VE WANTED TO MAKE FOR THE DEN...
WELL, HONEY... DON'T GLOAT! LET'S SEE...
-WHY... THOSE CHEATS! T-THEY SENT TEN YARDS OF SILK ALL RIGHT..
...I REMEMBER NOW... THEIR AD DIDN'T SPECIFY THE WIDTH OF THE SILK FOR OUR MONEY, ALL WE GOT IS A SPOOL OF SILK THREAD!
THE END

THE YOGI FROM CHINCHON

Word had gone out in the underworld that Ludwig Schulang wanted to see some of the money boys. The total amount needed would be two hundred thousand dollars and he wanted only four to make up that amount. More than fifty men expressed their willingness to lend their money to any racket devised by that criminal creative mind possessed by the country's leading swindler. So early on a Saturday morning, four ordinary looking citizens waited with rod and reel at Monroe's fishing pier.

Three minutes later the "Lady Luck" was tied up at the pier and the four men scampered aboard. A middle aged pleasant looking man with thinning hair greeted them.

The boat headed for mid channel and then the "Lady Luck" dropped anchor. Here the men would be alone and they could discuss business without fear of a wire tap or a hidden tape recorder.

"What's up?" asked impatient Ike Howell. "Bet it must be something big this time."

"I not only want your cold cash," replied Ludwig Schulang. "But for this operation I will need your services. I am going to first purchase the famous Bontey Beauty Salon where all the rich and social ladies try to recapture the lost beauty they never had. I will install tape recorders in each booth. Rich women love to gossip. Thus I will pick up important information. Next I will set up a Swami, Yogi Zuri Dugasti, as one who looks into the future. We will get those women to come to the place by phoning them and telling them their secrets."

"And then you will blackmail them," interrupted Slim Sam Shoder, "I don't like blackmail. Count me out. What's original with that idea?"

Ludwig Schulang gave one of those drop dead looks for which he was famous. It was supposed to make you feel ashamed of what you said. And then patiently he continued speaking.

"No blackmail in this idea. Something entirely different. When we get the women the way we want them, they bring their rich husbands. We'll convince the husbands we can read the future. We don't take a cent. But we will advise the husbands about stock market tips. We give them two good tips. Then we slaughter them on an oil stock deal for millions."

"Millions?" echoed Ben Marsden. "That's what I want. One big killing and then quit the game for good."

"We will make so much money," assured Ludwig Schulang, "that for the rest of our lives we can all enjoy ourselves without ever having to fear the law."

Mrs. Ethel Merimack, of the New England Merimacks was having a permanent. She was in a private booth at the famous Bontey Beauty Salon. And now she was talking to the beautician.

"I always said that Hilda Kavan was in her late sixties. She can't fool people even if she did have her face lifted. And the way she makes a fool out of herself. Running around behind her husband's back. And with whom? A boy in his twenties. Peter Greene, the drummer in Ted Seldin's band. Wonder if she knows her husband has been keeping that chorus girl. Life can be funny. Each cheating the other. Nothing like an old fool. I want you to do a very good job this time. I'm going for a week end to a party at the Hopewell's."

It was two in the morning and the Bontey Beauty Salon was closed. But downstairs in a secret room a tape recorder was playing some of the recordings made that morning and afternoon.

"Bet we could still make a lot of dough if we tried blackmail with all the dynamite in these recordings," commented impatient Ike Howell. "People talk too much. Wonder if they know what they say."

"Good thing for us that people shoot off their mouths," snapped back Ludwig Schulang. "We are now ready for part two of our plan. Yogi Zuri Dugasti is going to look into the future. Of course he will peep into the past We already have our appointment list. When we couldn't get the women to the phone,

we left a cleverly worded message to show we knew something."

Mrs. Hilda Kavan was no fool when she didn't let her emotions run away with her. She listened carefully to everything Yogi Zuri Dugasti told her.

"I don't know how you learned all these things," she conceded, "but if your game is blackmail, then let's get right down to business."

There was an evident painful look upon the Yogi's face. He opened a drawer of his desk and handed the woman a package of bills.

"My only ambition in life is to look into the future to help people. If you need money, take this package of hundred dollar bills as a gift."

Mrs. Hilda Kavan became flustered and quickly apologized. She told her husband about the visit and a week later, Mr. Kavan waited his turn in a crowded room. Finally he was ushered into the presence of the Yogi.

"It is wonderful to be here face to face with such a holy man like you, said Mr. Kavan, as he adjusted his hearing aid. "No doubt you studied in the holy city of Chinchon, in western India."

"Spent five years there learning the secrets of the past, present, and future," replied the Yogi.

"And you will pronounce upon me the eternal blessing: Chawm choo-sip-see-yaw tahm-ba."

"Of course," replied the Yogi. "Can I be of help to you?"

"Wonderful. If you could tell me what stocks to buy. I dabble in Wall Sreet."

"Simpson Machine Star Points Company Stock is selling at five dollars a share and it will go up in a week."

"This all could be a fake to fool me," said Mr. Kavan.

"That is not exactly out of the realm of the impossible," said the Yogi. He then opened a drawer of his desk and handed a package of bills to Mr. Kavan.

"Buy the stock with this money. If there is a profit, you keep it. If there is a loss, it comes from this money."

Two weeks later Ludwig Schulang held a meeting with his associates. Impatient Ike Howell had a question to ask.

"So far up to date we have been doing nothing but shelling out the dough. When do we begin to collect?"

"Maybe the Yogi should teach you some patience," said Ludwig. "You'll have to admit he is good. Nothing but a ham actor out in the sticks until I picked him up." And then he stopped for dramatic effect. "Tomorrow we tell our suckers to invest everything in Monsilta Moreana Stock. We have given them two good tips. This man Kavan is our biggest fish. Been telling all his friends to follow what we say. And the women all brought their husbands here. Business at that beauty salon is tops and the tape recorders are paying off."

Again Mr. Kavan was seated before the Yogi. The light in the room was dim and Mr. Kavan adjusted his hearing aid.

"I mean to make a million this time," he said. "The two tips you gave me were wonderful. What should I buy this time."

"Monsilta Morepna Stock is selling at ten dollars a share," advised the Yogi. "It will go up to twenty dollars. Shall I give you some money?"

The reply was the one that had been carefully anticipated.

"No. I'll use my own money and see that my friends also buy it."

Thousands of shares of that stock were sold during the next week. Now the boys were in that secret room underneath the beauty salon. There was a big bag on the table and it was full of money of all denominations.

"The time has come to divide the money," said Impatient Ike Howell. "Can't blame me if I got an itch for my share of it. There's a little gal out in Chicago just waiting for me and we're going South."

Ludwig Schulang had carefully made out his plans. He pushed a little button and the room was filled with gas. Up his nostrils were two metallic filters. He kept his lips clenched and watched his partners all collapse to the floor. Then he left the room and started outside when two officers of the law seized him.

"You really didn't think it was going to be so easy," said the familiar voice of Mr. Kavan. "After all, I did work as a Counter Intelligence man during the war so I contacted the Racket Squad and worked with them. Every word your Yogi said into my so called hearing aid was really into a miniature wire recorder. Better start talking when we get you downtown."

It was five in the morning and a nervous Ludwig Schulang looked across at his ex-Yogi in the D.A.'s office.

"Your Yogi betrayed he was a fakir," said Mr. Kavan. "Chinchon happens to be in Korea and not in India. And Chawm choo-sip-see-yaw-tahm-ba is not an Indian blessing. It is Korean and means, please give me cigarettes. One of the boys died in your gas chamber so this time you face a murder charge."

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE SUCCESS OF ANY RACKET IS THE UNWITTING COOPERATION OF THE PROSPECTIVE VICTIM. HERE'S A DRAMATIC GIMMICK WHICH ONE GANG USED TO ENCOURAGE THIS WILLINGNESS TO PLAY THE ROLE OF SUCKER, AND THUS SET THE STAGE OF A COSTLY...
OPENING NIGHT!
THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL COMEDIES I'VE EVER SEEN, GEORGE! WASN'T IT NICE GETTING THOSE TICKETS THE WAY WE DID...
L-LENORE! WHILE WE WERE AT THE THEATER... OUR PLACE HAS BEEN RANSACKED!
STAN CAMPBELL
A TYPICAL MIDDLE CLASS HOUSE ON A TYPICAL WEEKDAY MORNING. THE CLEANING'S COMPLETED ...THE MAIL DELIVERED...
BILLS, BILLS, BILLS! ALL WE EVER SEEM TO GET ARE BILLS! WONDER WHO THIS ONE IS FROM...?
W-WHY, THIS ISN'T A BILL AT ALL! HOW WONDERFUL... AND SO UNEXPECTED! I'LL CALL GEORGE AT THE OFFICE, IMMEDIATELY!
YES, DEAR... TWO ORCHESTRA SEATS FOR THE OPENING NIGHT OF "LIGHTS ON"! AND A LITTLE HAND WRITTEN NOTE SAYING THE THEATER MANAGEMENT HOPES WE ENJOY THE SHOW! ISN'T IT PERFECTLY DIVINE?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LATER, THAT NIGHT...
FUNNY... BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE, WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY WE GOT THEM... WELL, WHY LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH? I'LL CANCEL MY POKER SESSION FRIDAY NIGHT. WE CAN'T MISS THIS!
THE DAYS PASSED ALL TOO SLOWLY... AND THEN, AT LAST, IT WAS FRIDAY NIGHT...
WE'VE NEVER ATTENDED AN OPENING NIGHT BEFORE! ARE YOU SURE I LOOK ALL RIGHT, GEORGE? MY HAIR ... MY DRESS?
YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, DEAR...
THERE THEY GO...
YEP! LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER! THE JERKS!
AND HERE WE GO! I HOPE THE SAPS ENJOY THE SHOW... 'CAUSE THEY'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE WHEN THEY GET HOME!
NOT A BAD HEIST, EH, BOYS?
GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, SKIP! YOUR IDEA WAS CERTAINLY A FOOL-PROOF WAY TO EMPTY A HOUSE, SO WE CAN MOVE IN AND OPERATE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE! THEY COULD BUY A LOT OF THEATER TICKETS WITH WHAT WE'RE STEALING FROM 'EM!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THOSE TICKETS SET US BACK TWENTY BUCKS APIECE...AND WE'VE GOT A GRAND IN LOOT/ A SUCCESSFUL OPENING NIGHT, I'D SAY/ THIS SHOW'LL BE RUNNING AFTER "LIGHTS ON" IS JUST A MEMORY...
A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT...
I JUST LOVED LILLI MAUREEN TONIGHT, GEORGE/ WE'LL BE THE ENVY OF THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE OF THOSE TICKETS...
W-WE'LL BE THE TALK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ANYWAY/ WHILE WE WERE GONE SOMEBODY BROKE IN AND ROBBED US/
...YES, INSPECTOR... SOMETIME BETWEEN SEVEN AND MIDNIGHT/ WE WERE AT THE THEATER... FUNNY, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHY DID WE GET THOSE TICKETS...?
TWO DAYS LATER, IN A SUITE OF A PLUSH DOWN-TOWN HOTEL...
CIRCULATE AROUND AND SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP A COUPLE OF DUCATS FOR "LAUGH, CLOWN, LAUGH," THAT OPENS ON THE FIFTEENTH. YOU CAN FIND A SCALPER WHO'S STILL GOT A FEW... BUY 'EM AT ANY PRICE.
JUST TO CROSS UP JOHN LAW, WE'LL GO OVER AND HIT BEDFORD STREET ACROSS TOWN THIS TIME/ GET YOUR SURVEY STUFF READY, PAUL.
I'LL CASE THE STREET WITHIN AN INCH OF ITS LIFE, SKIP/
LATER THAT AFTERNOON, A SOFT SPOKEN YOUNG MAN QUESTIONS A HOUSE WIFE ON THE MAGAZINE READING HABITS OF HER FAMILY...
NO SERVANTS... GUESTS... PETS? THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MA'M, YOU'VE MADE MY JOB A LOT EASIER...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THANK YOU... FOR THESE MAGAZINES! I'LL LOOK THEM OVER AS YOU SUGGESTED!
DO THAT, NITWIT! THEN BITE FOR THE THEATER TICKETS YOU'RE GONNA GET! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT THE SHOW, WE'LL HAVE AN OPENING OF OUR OWN...
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME, MA'M...
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, A FAMILIAR SCENE TAKES PLACE AT THE HOME ON BEDFORD STEET...
THEY ARRIVED IN THE MAIL THIS MORNING, DEAR! HOW CLEVER OF YOU TO SURPRISE ME ON OUR ANNIVERSARY... OPENING NIGHT, TOO!
OH...HMMM... Y-YES... I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT...
AND ON THE NIGHT OF THE FIFTEENTH...
HURRY, DEAR! ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE THE TICKETS?
RIGHT HERE, HONEY...
I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHO SENT THEM...MUST'VE BEEN SOMEONE AT THE OFFICE...
SEVEN FIFTEEN, ON THE HEAD! GIVES US AT LEAST FOUR HOURS TO WORK! LET'S GET MOVING!
WE GOT EVERYTHING THAT'S WORTH MOVING... AND WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO CRACK TWO PLACES WITH THE NEXT BATCH OF ANNIE OAKLEYS! C'MON, LET'S CLEAR OUT!
HA, HA! ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPENING NIGHT!
YEAH, SINCE THERE'S NO DANGER OF ANYONE SURPRISING US IN THE ACT, WE SHOULD BACK UP A MOVING VAN AND REALLY CLEAN 'EM OUT!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER THE MOB LEAVES THE LOOTED HOUSE...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

STOP PLAYING WITH THE STARTER AND GET THIS HEAP MOVIN'! I DON'T WANT TO MEET THOSE DOPES COMING HOME FROM THE THEATER!
SOMETHING'S ON THE FRITZ! IT WON'T START...
...DOESN'T EVEN SPUTTER, EH? MAYBE BECAUSE I PULLED OUT YOUR SPARK PLUG WIRES WHILE YOU WERE OCCUPIED INSIDE!
COPS! ALL AROUND THE CAR!
THEY'VE GOT TWO VALISES FULL OF STUFF IN HERE, INSPECTOR!
DRAG IT OUT, WILL YOU, STEVE? OH...MR. AND MRS. FLINT... WOULD YOU MIND STEPPING OVER THERE AND IDENTIFYING THOSE ARTICLES...?
THOSE ARE OUR THINGS, ALL RIGHT! WE'RE LUCKY YOU CAME ON STAGE BETWEEN ACTS AND ASKED IF ANYONE HAD RECEIVED FREE TICKETS IN THE MAIL!
TAKE THESE BIRDS DOWN AND BOOK 'EM, STEVE, WHILE I HELP THE FLINTS REPLACE THIS STUFF IN THE HOUSE!
...AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO BREAK THIS CASE... TO ATTEND ALL OPENING NIGHTS AND DETERMINE WHO HAD RECEIVED FREE TICKETS!
AND I ... SNIFF... THOUGHT THAT YOU REMEMBERED OUR ANNIVERSARY, MARTIN! T-THOSE TICKETS...WEREN'T FROM YOU AT ALL!
TWO MORALS TO THIS STORY... BEWARE OF THE STRANGER WHO IS ANXIOUS TO DO YOU FAVORS! HE MAY ONLY BE INTERESTED IN PUTTING YOU OFF YOUR GUARD!
NUMBER TWO... IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO REMEMBER THOSE ANNIVERSARIES, MEN...
THE END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHEN THE CARD TABLE IS LOADED WITH BIG BETS, THE CROOKED GAMBLER BRIGHTENS UP AND USES...

THE SHINER!

TAKE IT FROM ME... SIDNEY RADNER OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS... GAMBLERS NEVER GAMBLE! IN TOURING THE COUNTRY FROM COAST-TO-COAST, EXPOSING THE METHODS OF "GYP" OPERATORS, I HAVE DEMONSTRATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS DO NOT BELIEVE IN GIVING A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK!

THANKS, GENTS! TUESDAY NIGHT AGAIN? GOOD.. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT! EVERY TIME WE PLAY HE WALKS OFF WITH A WAD OF OUR DOUGH!

AND YET... HE'S A MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND THERE'S NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT HE.. CHEATS...

JOHN BELF

IT'S UNCANNY HOW HE KNOWS JUST WHEN TO STAY IN THE GAME... AND WHEN TO DROP OUT! I'VE LOOKED THE CARDS OVER A DOZEN TIMES.. NOTHING I CAN SEE WRONG WITH THEM..

THEY'RE ORDINARY DECKS, I'M SURE! WHY, TONIGHT I GOT THEM FROM THE LOUNGE ATTENDANT AND I OPENED THE WRAPPER MYSELF!

GIVE ME THOSE DECKS WE USED TONIGHT. THE WIFE AND I ARE ATTENDING A LECTURE TOMORROW NIGHT.. THIS SIDNEY RADNER WHO EXPOSES CROOKED GAMBLERS MAYBE HE CAN TELL US IF WE ARE UP AGAINST A CROOK OR A GUY WHO'S JUST A SUPERIOR CARD PLAYER!

THAT NEXT EVENING, AFTER THE LECTURE AT TOWN HALL WAS OVER..

EXCUSE ME, MR RADNER. I WONDER IF YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE...

WHY, CERTAINLY.. JUST AS SOON AS I FINISH PACKING MY DEMONSTRATION MATERIAL!

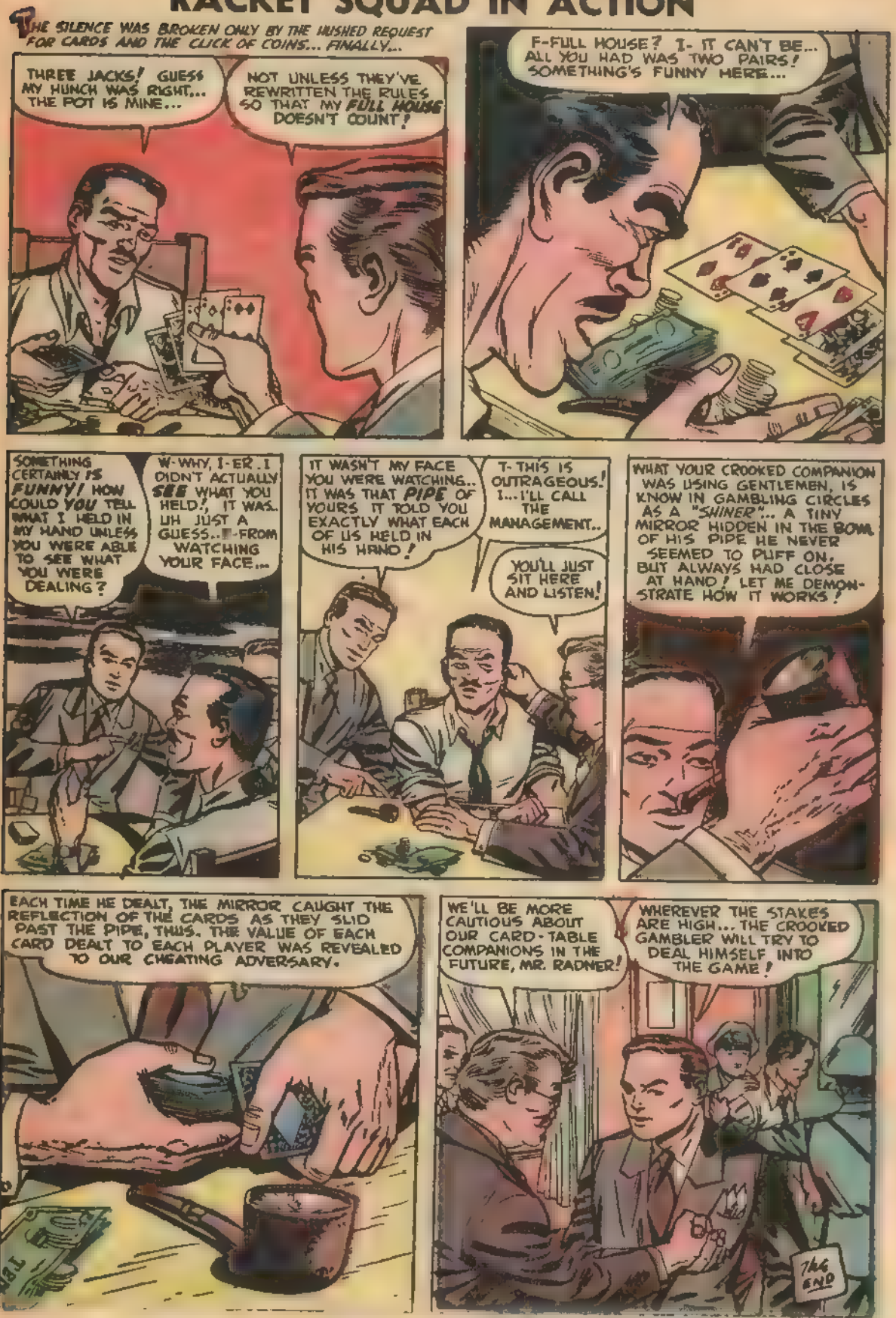
YOUR TALK OF GYPS OPERATING MOST LUCRATIVELY OUT OF EXCLUSIVE CLUBS AND RESORTS HITS HOME. A FEW OF US AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB SUSPECT THAT WE ARE BEING VICTIMIZED SOMEHOW. WOULD YOU MIND CHECKING THESE CARDS FOR ME?

LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THEM...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE SLIGHTEST DEVIATION IN MARKINGS ON THE BACKS OF THE CARD WILL SHOW UP IN A RIFFLE... GIVE THE EFFECT OF MOTION! THIS DECK IS OKAY!
NO NICKS OR MARKINGS ALONG THE EDGES. SO FAR, SO GOOD..
CARDS ARE OF UNIFORM WIDTH... NO ONE'S SLAMMED ANY OF THE CARDS DOWN SO THEY CAN EASILY SLIDE FROM THE DECK BY DOING THIS...
NO LIGHT SHINES THROUGH... NO PINHOLES HAVE BEEN USED AS SECRET TIPOFFS AS TO THE CARD'S VALUE!
IF ANY CROOKED PLAYING IS TAKING PLACE IT'S GOING ON RIGHT AT THE CARD TABLE. YOU'VE AROUSED MY INTEREST AND I'D LIKE TO HELP!
SPLENDID! LET ME GIVE YOU THE WHOLE STORY, THEN. WE PLAY EVERY TUESDAY, MR. RADNER, AND..
THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY, IN THE LOUNGE OF THE UNIVERSITY CLUB...
LOOKS AS IF MY LUCK IS HOLDING OUT...
W-WHY, THERE'S AN OLD PAL OF MINE! FROM OUT OF TOWN! HI, SID..!
CLUB LOUNGE
WELCOME, SID... ANY FRIEND OF TOM HELD'S IS A FRIEND OF MINE. CARE TO SIT IN ON OUR LITTLE POKER GROUP FOR A COUPLE OF HANDS?
DON'T MIND IF I DO.. IF YOU FELLOWS HAVEN'T ANY OBJECTION!
NO OBJECTION AT ALL, SID... AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE CARD SHARPS WHO CLEANS UP ON AVERAGE PLAYERS LIKE US! HA.. HA!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME BEING A CARD SHARP.. I'M ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THEM MYSELF!
FOR TEN MINUTES THE GAME PROGRESSED, AND THEN...
MY DEAL, EH? I HAVE A HUNCH, BOYS, THAT THIS POT IS MINE,.. SO LET'S DOUBLE THE ANTE!

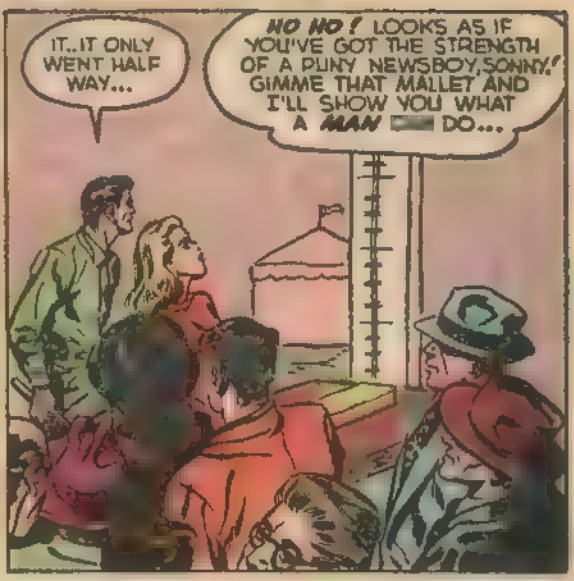
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

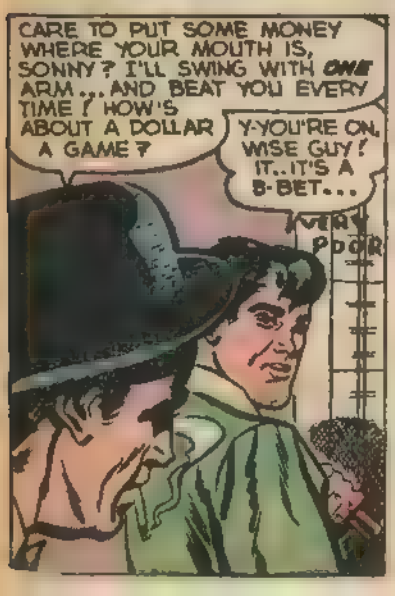

THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN ONLY BY THE HUSHED REQUEST FOR CARDS AND THE CLICK OF COINS... FINALLY...
THREE JACKS! GUESS MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT... THE POT IS MINE...
NOT UNLESS THEY'VE REWRITTEN THE RULES SO THAT MY FULL HOUSE DOESN'T COUNT!
F-FULL HOUSE? I- IT CAN'T BE... ALL YOU HAD WAS TWO PAIRS! SOMETHING'S FUNNY HERE...
SOMETHING CERTAINLY IS FUNNY! HOW COULD YOU TELL WHAT I HELD IN MY HAND UNLESS YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE DEALING?
W-WHY, I-ER. I DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE WHAT YOU HELD!, IT WAS. UH JUST A GUESS.. I-FROM WATCHING YOUR FACE...
IT WASN'T MY FACE YOU WERE WATCHING.. IT WAS THAT PIPE OF YOURS IT TOLD YOU EXACTLY WHAT EACH OF US HELD IN HIS HAND!
T-THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! I...I'LL CALL THE MANAGEMENT..
YOU'LL JUST SIT HERE AND LISTEN!
WHAT YOUR CROOKED COMPANION WAS USING GENTLEMEN, IS KNOW IN GAMBLING CIRCLES AS A "SHINER".. A TINY MIRROR HIDDEN IN THE BOWL OF HIS PIPE HE NEVER SEEMED TO PUFF ON, BUT ALWAYS HAD CLOSE AT HAND! LET ME DEMONSTRATE HOW IT WORKS!
EACH TIME HE DEALT, THE MIRROR CAUGHT THE REFLECTION OF THE CARDS AS THEY SLID PAST THE PIPE, THUS. THE VALUE OF EACH CARD DEALT TO EACH PLAYER WAS REVEALED TO OUR CHEATING ADVERSARY.
WE'LL BE MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT OUR CARD-TABLE COMPANIONS IN THE FUTURE, MR. RADNER!
WHEREVER THE STAKES ARE HIGH... THE CROOKED GAMBLER WILL TRY TO DEAL HIMSELF INTO THE GAME!
THE END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

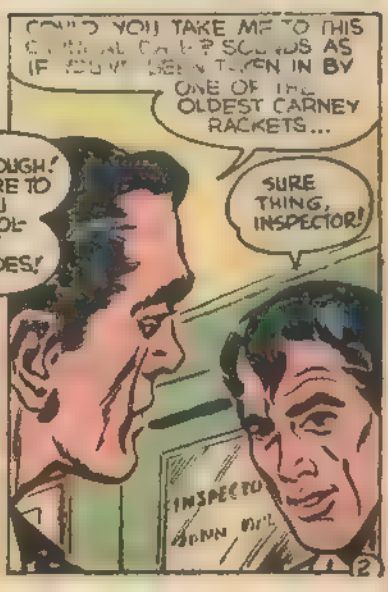
MY NAME IS JOHN J. O'MALLEY. I TOUR THE COUNTRY FROM COAST TO COAST, LECTURING ON THE PRACTICES OF CROOKED GAMBLERS. IT WAS DURING ONE OF THESE SHOWS, BEFORE A WESTERN BOYS' CLUB THAT I HELPED UNCOVER A...
SWINDLE ON THE MIDWAY
T-THOSE GYPS HE TALKED ABOUT... MAYBE I FELL FOR ONE LIKE IT! I.. I THINK I'D BETTER TALK TO MR. O'MALLEY AFTER HIS LECTURE IS OVER...
ONE OF OUR BOYS IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO ASK A QUESTION, MR. O'MALLEY. THIS IS DALE BENDIX, OUR CLUB PRESIDENT...
SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, DALE.
YESTERDAY, AFTER FOOTBALL PRACTICE, I DROVE OVER TO THE CARNIVAL WITH MY GIRL. I GUESS MAYBE I WAS DOING A LITTLE BRAGGING..."
YOU'RE WONDERFUL, DALE! THE STRONGEST BOY IN THE WHOLE STATE, I'LL BET!
C'MON, FOLKS, STEP UP AND TEST YOUR STRENGTH! HEY YOU.. TARZAN! PROVE TO THE LITTLE LADY THAT THOSE MUSCLES AREN'T MADE OF CARDBOARD!
I..I THINK HE MEANS YOU, DALE. ALL THE PEOPLE ARE SNICKERING.
YOU PANTYWAIST KIDS HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE TO TRY...
GIVE ME THAT THING, WISE GUY! ONE GOOD SWING AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR WHOLE CHEESY CONCESSION DOWN!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


IT..IT ONLY WENT HALF WAY...
NO NO! LOOKS AS IF YOU'VE GOT THE STRENGTH OF A PUNY NEWSBOY, SONNY! GIMME THAT MALLET AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT A MAN DO...


CARE TO PUT SOME MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS, SONNY? I'LL SWING WITH ONE ARM... AND BEAT YOU EVERY TIME! HOW'S ABOUT A DOLLAR A GAME?
Y-YOU'RE ON, WISE GUY! IT..IT'S A B-BET...
VERY POOR

FOR THE NEXT HOUR OUR CONTEST CONTINUED, WITH THE BETS GETTING LARGER AS I GREW MORE DESPERATE. THEN...
THAT'S ALL I HAVE, MISTER.. THE LAST OF MY FIFTY DOLLARS! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I COULDN'T...
COME BACK SOMETIME WITH MORE DOUGH! IT'S A PLEASURE TO SHOW UP YOU SCHOOL-BOY HEROES!


COULD YOU TAKE ME TO THIS CRIMINAL CAVE? SOUNDS AS IF YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN IN BY ONE OF THE OLDEST CARNEY RACKETS...
SURE THING, INSPECTOR!
INSPECTOR DUNN, 0112

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"THAT SAME EVENING, DALE AND I DROVE OVER TO THE CARNIVAL. I HAD A SHORT TALK WITH THE TOWN CONSTABLE ASSIGNED TO THE GROUNDS, AND THEN..."
THERE HE IS, MR. O'MALLEY.
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, DALE.. LET HIM THINK HE'S GOT YOUR GOAT AGAIN.
I GOT HOLD OF SOME MORE DOUGH AND I'D LIKE A CHANCE TO WIN BACK MY MONEY...
SURE, KID! SAME BET.. DOLLAR A GAME. MEBBE YOUR LUCK'S CHANGED, EH?
"DALE SWUNG WITH ALL THE STRENGTH IN HIS HUSKY YOUNG SHOULDERS, AND THE DARK ROSE ONLY HALF WAY UP THE WIRE. THEN THE CARNEY MAN TOOK THE MALLET..."
LIKE I TOLD YOU, SONNY, IT'S A MATTER OF MUSCLE...
CLANG
..AND YOU AIN'T GOT ENOUGH! THAT'S ANOTHER DOLLAR... WANNA TRY AGAIN?
I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY YOUNG FRIEND'S TURN THIS TIME. HOW ABOUT BETTING THE $51 HE'S LOST TO YOU SO FAR?
S-SURE, MISTER! IF YOU WANNA MAKE ME RICH...
FIRST, DALE.. I TAP THE MALLET LIGHTLY AGAINST THE STARTING BLOCK, LIKE OUR CARNIVAL FRIEND DOES EVERY TIME HE SWINGS.
CLANG
THEN I BRING THE MALLET DOWN WITH A LOT LESS FORCE THAN YOU DID, DALE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. ONLY THIS TIME, MISTER... DON'T TAP THE STARTING BLOCK BEFORE YOU SWING!
W-WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TO GIVE ME ORDERS.. THE LAW?
YES..AND SO AM I! DO AS MR. O'MALLEY SUGGESTED..SWING WITHOUT TAPPING THAT STARTING BLOCK!
THE CARNEY SWINDLER BROUGHT THE MALLET DOWN WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH AND THE WOODEN DISK FLEW HALF-WAY UP THE WIRE!
FORTY-NINE.. FIFTY.. FIFTY-ONE! GUESS IT'S B-BECAUSE I'M A LITTLE TIRED...
BUT WHAT DID TAPPING THE MALLET AGAINST THE STARTING BLOCK HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
IT WAS LIKE A TRIGGER THAT HAD TO BE SET TO MAKE THE WIRE GROW RIGID! WHEN THERE'S NO SLACK, THE BALL'S FLIGHT IS MADE MUCH EASIER!
WHEN YOU SWUNG WITHOUT FIRST TIGHTENING THAT WIRE.. BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE TRICK.. THE METAL STRAND WAS LOOSE AND WOBBLY. THAT'S WHAT KEPT THE DISK FROM SHOOTING RIGHT UP TO THE BELL!
BY GETTING YOU ANGRY, THE CROOKED CARNEY OPERATOR MAKES YOU ANXIOUS TO SWING RIGHT INTO ACTION. AND YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN YOU BET AGAINST A MIDWAY-GYP! REMEMBER.. THE EQUIPMENT IS HIS, AND IT'S USUALLY DOCTORED TO FIT HIS NEEDS!
The End

"I killed that Cop!"

. . . said the SCANDAL-HUNGRY BRUNETTE. Was she lying? Was she "screwy"? Or was she really guilty?

Janet Stahl was the fanciest-looking manicurist on Manhattan Island and . . . and the craziest, too! She "confessed" that SHE killed the cop—because he made a pass at her. Was she lying just to get her name in the papers? Or was she telling the truth? NERO WOLFE has to find out fast—*before murder strikes again!* A terrific thriller! Don't miss TRIPLE JEOPARDY by *Rex Stout.*

ALL 7 MYSTERY NOVELS

Value $17.75 in Publishers' Edition

YOURS FOR ONLY $1.00

WITH MEMBERSHIP

AN AMAZING DEMONSTRATION OFFER BY AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK CLUB

WILL YOU ACCEPT this gigantic bargain package! You get ALL SEVEN full sized novels for only ONE DOLLAR—to read, to enjoy, to put proudly on your book shelf. (The price of these books in publishers' editions adds up to $17.75!) At the same time you are enrolled Free of Charge in the Dollar Mystery Guild America's Number One *entertainment* book club.

Here's the simple, popular plan of the Dollar Mystery Guild; Each month the club selects two top-notch new books. These are described to members well *IN ADVANCE.* You take only those you like; no more than four a year if you wish. If you don't want a book, simply tell the club. It will not be sent. Members save money by paying only *ONE DOLLAR* each (plus few cents shipping) for large, hard-bound books worth up to $3.00 each in publisher's editions! Best of all, if you join *NOW*, you get SEVEN new books for ONE DOLLAR as an enrollment premium! Send coupon to DOLLAR MYSTERY GUILD, DEPT. CCG-6 GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

YOU GET ALL THESE NEW "HITS" TOO!

EACH INDIVIDUALLY BOUND FULL SIZED HARD COVERED NEW BOOKS

THE KING IS DEAD
by ELLERY QUEEN
Somebody killed sadistic Mr. Bendigo. But the murder weapon was an *EMPTY* gun! *And it was "fired" through a solid steel door!*

BLACK WIDOW
by PATRICK QUENTIN
A girl dead in your apartment! Her suicide note blames you. Her angry friends say she was YOUR girl friend. But YOU have seen her ONLY ONCE in your whole life!

NEVER BET YOUR LIFE
by GEORGE H. COXE
Every cent the murdered gambler owned was willed to Dave Barnum. But Dave had to BET HIS LIFE to prove HE wasn't the killer!

ALIAS UNCLE HUGO
by MANNING COLES
Here's a top-notch espionage yarn about a young heir to a throne . . . a Russian commissar . . . and Tommy Hambledon, secret agent extraordinary!

THE NIGHT WATCH
by THOMAS WALSH
Every night, he trained his big binoculars on the "bachelor girl" in apartment 8-A. He got a surprising "close-up" of her private life. *Then the KILLER showed up . . .*

MURDER WITH MIRRORS
by AGATHA CHRISTIE
A terrific new best-seller by one of the greatest mystery writers! Tells of a thrice-married woman . . . and a house swept by MURDER . . .

Mail This Coupon to:
THE DOLLAR MYSTERY GUILD, DEPT. CCG-6, Garden City, N. Y.

Please enroll me in the Dollar Mystery Guild and rush me these new books. Later I'll send only $1.00 for the entire package.

ENROLLMENT BONUS — 7 FULL-SIZED BOOKS for $1.00
TRIPLE JEOPARDY, THE KING IS DEAD, BLACK WIDOW, NEVER BET YOUR LIFE, ALIAS UNCLE HUGO, THE NIGHT WATCH, MURDER WITH MIRRORS

Forthcoming book bargains will be described to me in advance in the club's monthly bulletin, "Mystery Guild Clues." It is my privilege to notify you whenever I do not wish to accept any forthcoming selections at the special membership price of only $1.00 each, plus a few cents shipping charge. The purchase of books is entirely voluntary on my part. I do not have to accept a book every month—only four during each year that I remain a member. I may resign at any time after accepting four selections. NO-RISK Guarantee: If not delighted, I can return books in 7 days and this membership will be cancelled.

Name (PLEASE PRINT) .....

Street and No. .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

(Offer good in U. S. A. only.)

If under 18 years, check for special extra gift . . . ☐

DOCTORS IN ACTUAL CLINICAL TESTS PROVE SUCCESS OF

AMAZING DOUBLE-ACTION SKIN TREATMENT THAT CONCEALS AS IT MEDICATES

PIMPLES

ACNE, BLACKHEADS AND other externally-caused SKIN BLEMISHES!

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up skin blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors, there were a mixture of men, women and children, White and Negro. Some with recent skin eruptions and others with skin troubles of many years. The results were:

100% SUCCESSFUL IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW THE SAME TYPE OF MEDICATION USED IN THESE CLINICAL TESTS IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

GUARANTEED TO HELP YOUR SKIN LOOK LOVELIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE IN A FEW MINUTES OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

Leading SKIN SPECIALISTS RECOMMEND THIS DOUBLE TREATMENT

Physicians prescribe two ways to help control skin eruptions. First—clean the skin and clear the pores of clogging dirt. Second—inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

The clinically-proven ingredients in the scientifically-tested formula of Scope Products have been compounded to help overcome these external causes of pimples and blemishes! Actually, nerves pimples because it helps remove the oils that skin specialists often associate with acne!

SKIN DOCTORS STATE THAT TO NEGLECT YOUR SKIN MAY PROLONG YOUR COMPLEXION TROUBLE AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR UP!

DELAY MAY BE HARMFUL—*Send for Scope Medicated Skin treatment with its special "cover-up" action!*

MAIL COUPON AT ONCE!

TEEN-AGERS and GROWN-UPS REGAIN NEW POPULARITY

People of all ages have discovered a new-found joy with a clearer, lovelier looking skin! If you've been hoping to improve your complexion to increase your popularity with the opposite sex ... to climb to success in the business world—we recommend this amazing treatment. Just a few minutes each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible!

HIDES PIMPLES ON LIGHT, AVERAGE & DARK COMPLEXIONS!

To help people of all complexions quickly conceal their externally caused blemishes—Scope Medicated Skin Formula* comes in special tones. No matter how many other treatments or old-fashioned preparations have disappointed you—here is a product that *guarantees to improve your appearance or double your money back!* Scope Medicated Skin Formula is GREASELESS, FAST-DRYING and STAINLESS! Make-up can easily be applied over it!

SURE, QUICK RESULTS—WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

Thousands like yourself today enjoy the wonderful skin beauty that would normally be theirs—thanks to Scope. Scope Medicated Skin Formula is made to special tones to match your skin—and almost like magic hides those unsightly externally caused blemishes while the medication is acting. Just a few minutes a day may help you toward the complexion that's lovable to kiss and touch!

SEND NO MONEY

You fill out the coupon and by return mail we will immediately ship you the Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope Treatment! If you are not entirely satisfied, return the unused portion for refund of DOUBLE your purchase price

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. CC – 2
1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y.

Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon TODAY!

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. CC 2 ACT NOW!
1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y.

☐ Please send me on a 10-Day Trial the Scope Medicated Skin Treatment. I will pay postman $1.98 plus postage on delivery. If not entirely satisfied, I may return the unused portion for double my purchase price back.

Check ☐ Light ☐ Medium ☐ Dark Complexion

Name _____

Address _____

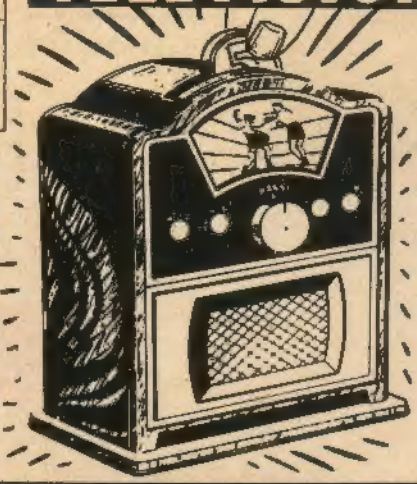
City & Zone _____ State _____

☐ SAVE MONEY. Enclose $2. now and we pay postage. Same double your money-back either way you order.

Enclose payment with Canadian or Foreign orders.

LOTS OF FUN AND MONEY!

WITH THIS TELEVISION BANK



LIGHTS UP THE INSTANT YOU DROP COIN! Just insert a penny, nickel, dime or quarter into the slot on top. In a split second your spectacular Television Bank lights up—in a big, BIG way!

BIGGEST ATTRACTION EVER! Everyone will want to see this amazing new Television Bank. Your friends, relatives and neighbors can't resist putting in coins to see this show!

TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE! After you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show". Light goes out automatically as new picture appears. To light new picture, bank another coin. SIX exciting pictures—a fight, a hilarious cartoon, a tense rodeo scene, a swell figure skater, a dramatic dance team and a circus clown with his trick dog!

PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY" FAST Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST with this marvelous new Television Bank! Everyone wants to see all six pictures—your savings grow and grow by leaps and bounds! A Rich-looking mahogany finish with four simulated dials and speaker grille. 4¾" x 4" and ruggedly constructed. Will give you years of fun and big savings!

SEAGEE CO., Dept. CCS
2 Allen Street, New York 2, N. Y.

LIGHTS UP!
LIKE BIGGEST, COSTLIEST TELEVISION SETS!

- SHOWS BRILLIANT PICTURES IN FULL COLOR!
- HITS EVERY TELEVISION HIGH FIGHTS AND ALL!
- THRILLS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS POP-EYED!
- AND MAKES YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP FAST!

ALL STEEL CONSTRUCTION

ONLY $1.98

COMPLETE WITH BATTERY AND BULB!

GUARANTEED to DELIGHT YOU!

Bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying your wealth of savings.

BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL NEW TELEVISION BANK! SEND NO MONEY! ORDER YOURS TODAY!

SEAGEE CO.,
Dept. CCS
2 Allen Street,
New York 2, N. Y.

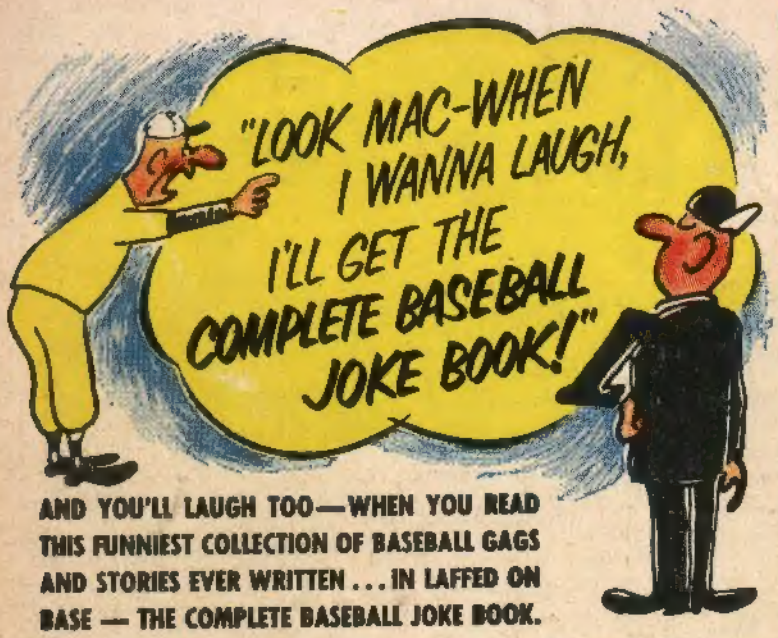
☐ Please rush me my TELEVISION BANK. I agree to pay postman $1.98 plus few cents postage with understanding that if I am not delighted I may return bank in 5 days for full refund of purchase price

Name _____ *(Please Print Plainly)*

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ I enclose $2.00. You pay postage. Same money back guarantee



AND YOU'LL LAUGH TOO—WHEN YOU READ THIS FUNNIEST COLLECTION OF BASEBALL GAGS AND STORIES EVER WRITTEN . . . IN LAFFED ON BASE — THE COMPLETE BASEBALL JOKE BOOK.

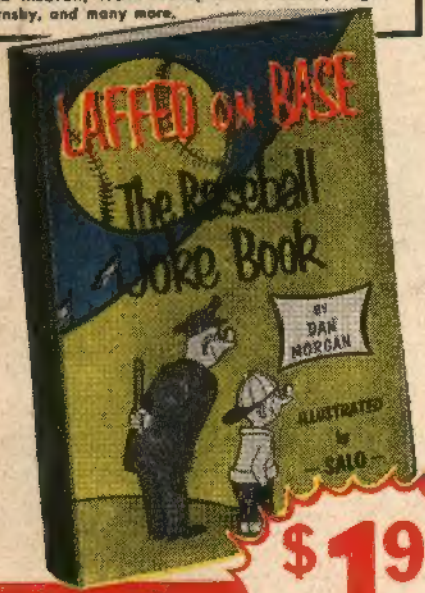
Here's a riotous selection of dugout capers that's a "hit" in any league ("hot stove" or not). Daffy stories of real ballplayers and their experiences on and off the diamond, with umpires, managers and their buddies.

CASH IN ON THIS AMAZING DOUBLE PLAY!

Surprise your friends with your increased knowledge of the game *and at the same time* chuckle to the zany antics of these wonderful "screwballs."

Read About the Wild, Crazy-Antics of These and Other of Your Favorite Ballplayers!

Babe Ruth, Allie Reynolds, Lefty Gomez, Lee Durocher, Sal Maglie, Bobby Thomson, Dixie Walker, Yogi Berra, Dizzy Dean, Al Schacht, Frenchy Bordagaray, Babe Herman, Dazzy Vance, Dick Bartell, Rabo Newsom, John McGraw, Frank Frisch, Rube Waddell, Rogers Hornsby, and many more.



DON'T GET CAUGHT OFF BASE!

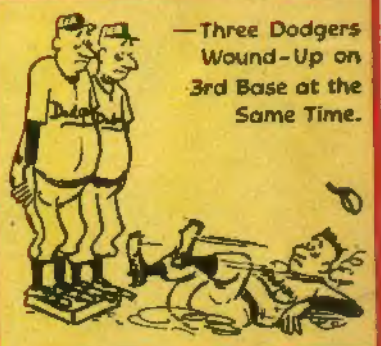
Mail the coupon NOW, for *your* copy of the Complete Baseball Joke Book. But hurry because "it's a steal"... at only $1.98!

FIRST TRY 10 DAYS

BEAUTIFULLY CLOTH BOUND PERFECT GIFT IDEA

$1.98

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TIME WHEN . . .



—Three Dodgers Wound-Up on 3rd Base at the Same Time.

OR WHEN . . .

—Babe Herman Got Conked on the Head Chasing a Fly Ball?

OR WHEN . . .

—Casey Stengel Tipped his Cap at the Plate and a Bird Flew Out?

SEND NO MONEY

STRAVON PUBLISHERS, Dept. M264
113 West 57th Street, N. Y. 19, N. Y.

I want to learn about the funny side of baseball. Rush my copy of The Complete BASEBALL JOKE BOOK. If not completely satisfied I may return the book for a full refund.

- ☐ Enclosed is $1.98 (Stravon pays postage)
- ☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman only $1.98 plus a few cents postage charges.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ ZONE____ STATE_____

NO C.O.D. TO CANADA OR FOREIGN COUNTRIES
SEND INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER